INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES FACT SHEET

IPSAWG
Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group

Glossy Buckthorn

Rhamnus frangula

Pictures By (From Top to Bottom): J. M. Randall, P. Mill @ www.invasive.org and J. M. Randall.

Invasive Plants are a Threat to:

- **Forests and wetlands**
- **Native plants**
- **Perennial gardens**
- **Wildlife**
- **Lakes and rivers**
- **Human Health**
- **Farmland**

Date Prepared: 1/05

Description:

Glossy buckthorn is a shrub or small tree growing to seven meters. Brown-green branches have elongate lenticels, and may be slightly pubescent. Cutting the stem reveals a distinctive yellow sapwood and pink to orange heartwood. The leaves are 1-3 inches long, shiny on the upper surface, oval in shape and slightly wavy. Flowers are greenish-white and 5 petaled. Fruits undergo a color transition from green to red to black in later summer, maturing in September. Commonly sold cultivars include Asplenifolia and Columnaris (also listed as Tallhedge).

Distribution:

Glossy buckthorn occurs from Nova Scotia to Manitoba, south to Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey and Tennessee. It was probably introduced to North America before 1800, but did not become widespread and naturalized until the early 1900's. Fens, sedge meadoews, wet and mesic prairie, shrub swamps, and upland forests frequently have glossy buckthorn in the understory. In Indiana, it is found primarily in the northern third of the state.

Problem:

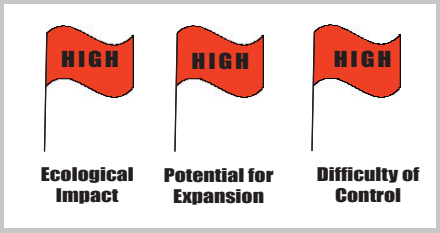
Glossy buckthorn has a wide habitat tolerance, a rapid growth rate and an extensive root system. It produces abundant flowers and fruits throughout the growing season. Seeds are widely dispersed by birds. They aggressively invade natural areas and form dense thickets eliminating native species. They leaf out very early in the growing season and keep their leaves late into the fall helping to shade out native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Origin:

Glossy buckthorn is native to North Africa, Asia and Europe. It was introduced to North America as ornamental shrubs for fence rows and wildlife habitat and is still used in landscaping.

Seedling picture by: J. M. Randall

IPSAWG Ranking:



IPSAWG Recommendation:

- Do not buy, sell or plant glossy buckthorn in Indiana.
- Help by eradicating glossy buckthorn on your property.

This ranking illustrates the results of an assessment conducted by the **Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group** (IPSAWG), which is made up of many organizations and agencies concerned about invasive plant species. IPSAWG's goal is to assess which plant species may threaten natural areas in Indiana and develop recommendations for their use in the state.

For more information about IPSAWG and the assessment tool used to rank invasive species, visit their website:

www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

ALTERNATIVES to Glossy buckthorn:

Redosier Dogwood
(*Cornus sericea)*

Silky Dogwood
(*Cornus amomum*)

Carolina buckthorn
(*Rhamnus caroliniana*)

Serviceberry
(*Amelanchier arborea*)

Pictures By (Top to Bottom): D. E. Herman, U. Conn, T A&M U, W. S. Justice.

Other Alternatives:

Lance-leaved buckthorn
(*Rhamnus lanceolata*)
Grey Dogwood
(*Cornus racemosa*)

Control Methods:

Fire will top kill stems, however re-sprouting will occur and seed germination may increase. Seedlings or small plants may be hand pulled or removed with a grubbing hoe or larger plants may be pulled out with heavy equipment. However, this often disturbs roots of adjacent plants, or creates open soil readily colonized by new seedlings. Repeated mowing has been reported effective in maintaining open areas and preventing seedling establishment. Chemical treatments include: stump application of 30% glyphosate in August/September or spray application of 5% glyphosate in May.

Always read and follow pesticide label directions.

A dense thicket of Glossy buckthorn has eliminated other species along this roadside. (Picture By: G. Fewless)

Eight Easy Ways to Combat Invasive Plants

You can **help stop** the spread of **invasive plants** by following these **8 easy guidelines**:

1. Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Request that nurseries and garden centers sell only non-invasive plants.
2. Seek information on invasive plants. Sources include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies.
3. Scout your property for invasive species, and remove invasives before they become a problem. If plants can't be removed, at least prevent them from going to seed.
4. Clean your boots before and after visiting a natural area to prevent the spread of invasive plant seeds.
5. Don't release aquarium plants into the wild.
6. Volunteer at local parks and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.
7. Help educate your community through personal contacts and in such settings as garden clubs and civic groups.
8. Support public policies and programs to control invasive plants.

For More Information:

On this assessment and IPSAWG:

IPSAWG
www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

On identification and control techniques:

The Nature Conservancy's Wildland Weeds
www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu

On native plant alternatives and sources:

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society
www.inpaws.org